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07/27/2009

The Honorable Philip Andrews
President
Montgomery County Council
100 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, Maryland 20850

Re: July 28th, 2009 Public Hearing Supplemental appropriation to the FY09 Capital Budget for the Smart Growth Initiative

Dear Council President Andrews:

I am writing this letter in support of the County Executive's supplemental appropriation request to add \$48,316,000 to the County's FY09 Capital Budget to relocate the Public Safety Training Academy (PSTA) from the Shady Grove Life Science Center to the new County Multi-Agency Service Park.

Redevelopment of the PSTA site is a cornerstone to the creation of the dynamic, mixed-use life sciences oriented community envisioned in the Gaithersburg West Master Plan, which was approved by the Planning Board earlier this month. The Plan articulates a compelling 'Smart Growth' vision for the future of our County. It will foster the creation of new employment in close proximity to a range of housing opportunities, mass transit, shopping and recreation, and create a lively, walkable community that is people-oriented rather than auto-oriented.

Relocating the PSTA is a critical first step to moving this vision forward. I urge you and your colleagues on the County Council to approve this important funding request.

I am writing this letter both someone who lives in Darnestown, and who works on Medical Center Drive, and I take the RT28 to Key West ride every day.

Very truly yours,



Robert C. Thompson
Vice President, Operations

MALARIA ERADICATION THROUGH VACCINATION